

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to enable user-authoring of content within an interactive television environment, said method comprising the method including:
communicating television content from a first source system to a headend receiver system, the television content to be presented to a user of a ~~[[by the]]~~ receiver system;
communicating authoring data along with an authoring application ~~said television content~~, said authoring data comprising media information associated with the television content, from a second ~~[[said]]~~ source system to the headend receiver system;
proximate multiplexing together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application at said headend system; and
communicating ~~[[an]]~~ said proximate multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application from said headend ~~source~~ system to the receiver system, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to create new authored content, said new authored content including the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in ~~[[of]]~~ claim 1, ~~including, at the source system,~~ said method further comprising:
receiving, at the headend system, the authoring data from a content source, and associating the authoring data with the television content.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in ~~[[of]]~~ claim 1, wherein the authoring data is contextual to the television content.
4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in ~~[[of]]~~ claim 1, wherein the authoring application comprises a messaging application executable by the receiver system to

enable the user to include the new authored content within a message, and to enable the user to communicate the message.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim [[1]], wherein the television content[[,]] and the authoring data, and the authoring application are associated using identifiers communicated from the source system as a combined communication.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1 [[5]], wherein the multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application ~~combined communication~~ comprises a broadcast.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1 [[5]], wherein the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content, the authoring data, and the authoring application.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, wherein said authoring data comprises text, images, and audio associated with said television content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, including executing the authoring application to present a user interface for display on the receiver system, the user interface to receive the user identification of the portion of the authoring data to be included within the new authored content.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 9, wherein the user interface presents the authoring data in association with the television content at the receiver system for selection by said user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~o~~ as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to transmit the authored content as part of a message to a recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 11, including executing the authoring application to prompt the user to provide identification information for the recipient.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, wherein the receiver system is an interactive television system, and the authoring application is an interactive television application.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to present a virtual keyboard for display on the receiver system, the virtual keyboard to facilitate alphanumeric input by said user.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to receive alphanumeric input from said user, and to identify the alphanumeric input for inclusion along with authoring data within the authored content.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to receive a recipient identifier to identify a recipient of a message that includes the authored content.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 16, wherein the message comprises a SMS message, and the recipient identifier comprises a telephone number.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 16, wherein the message comprises an e-mail message, and the recipient identifier comprises an e-mail address.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 16, wherein the message comprises an instant message, and the recipient identifier comprises an instant message handle.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 16, including executing the authoring application at the receiver system to communicate the message via a return path to the source system.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 20, wherein the return path is a bi-directional communication channel.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in [[of]] claim 1, wherein the authoring data includes at least one of a group of information types including numeric, alphanumeric, picture, logo, icon, video, and audio data.

23. (Currently Amended) A system, said system comprising including:
a first source system to distribute television content;
a second source system to generate, auxiliary authoring data[[,]] and an authoring application, said authoring data comprising media information associated with said television content;
a multiplexer to proximate multiplex together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application;
a broadcast system to broadcast said multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application to a plurality of receiver systems, ~~said auxiliary authoring data comprising media information associated with and transmitted along with the television content, to the receiver system;~~ and
a receiver system to receive the multiplexed television content, ~~auxiliary~~ authoring data, and authoring application from the broadcast source system, said authoring application allowing a user to create new authored content with the ~~auxiliary~~ authoring data.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 23, wherein the ~~source system includes a broadcast system to broadcast the~~ television content is associated to the authoring data with identifiers ~~receiver system~~.

25. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 23 [[24]], wherein the first source system is the same as the second source ~~broadcast system is further to broadcast the auxiliary authoring data to the receiver system~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 23, wherein the authoring application comprises ~~source system is to distribute a messaging application to the receiver system, the messaging application to receive the authored content for communication in a message~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 23 [[26]], wherein the ~~source system is to distribute the messaging application in conjunction with the~~ television content is associated to [[and]] the auxiliary authoring data using timecodes.

28. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 23, wherein the receiver system is to communicate the authored content to a messaging system for inclusion within the message.

29. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 28, wherein the message is an SMS message, and the recipient identifier is a telephone number.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 28, wherein the message is an e-mail message, and the recipient identifier is an e-mail address.

31. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in [[of]] claim 28, wherein the message is an instant message, and the recipient identifier is an instant message handle.

32. – 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium, said machine-readable medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by machine, ~~causing~~ cause a machine to perform a [[the]] method comprising: of claim 1.

receiving television content from a first source system in a headend system, the television content to be presented to a user of a receiver system;

receiving authoring data along with an authoring application, said authoring data comprising media information associated with the television content, from a second source system to the headend system;

proximate multiplexing together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application at said headend system; and

communicating said proximate multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application from said headend system to the receiver system, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to create new authored content, said new authored content including the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user.

42. (Cancelled)